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PATENT & TRADEMARK

Docket Number: 008312-0283647

Client Reference: T4HT-01SO569-1

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2854
2621

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

KENTARO YOKOI

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 09/955,143

Examiner: UNKNOWN

Filed: September 19, 2001

Confirmation No.: 8362

For: STAMP DETECTING DEVICE, STAMP DETECTING METHOD, LETTER PROCESSING APPARATUS AND LETTER PROCESSING METHOD

RECEIVED
FEB 10 2004
Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Application
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 12 2004

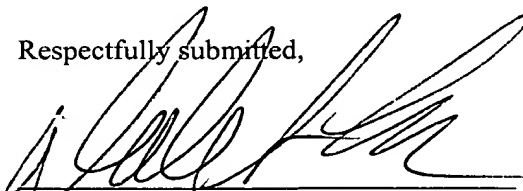
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application in the attached European Communication (Search Report) issued December 29, 2003, i.e., not more than three months ago. An English language version of the Search Report and English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,



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<p>Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.</p> <p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/955,143
				Filing Date	09/19/2001
				First Named Inventor	KENTARO YOKOI
				Art Unit	2854
				Examiner Name	UNKNOWN
				Attorney Docket Number	008312-0283647
Sheet	1	of			

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	1	JP 62-138983	06/1987	OKABE	Abstract	
	2	JP 3-220679	09/1991	NOMURA	Abstract	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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